

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-4 are allowed.

Claims 5-11 are rejected.

Claims 5-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 5 and 9 are amended.

No new matter is added.

Claims 1-11 remain in the case for consideration.

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner's indication that amended claims 1-4 are allowed.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 5-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshioka et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,051,349).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claim 5 is amended to recite,

“a receiver configured to receive temperature data of soft baking temperature, post baking temperature and hard baking temperature from the resist coating and developing apparatus, when baking processes are each performed;

....

an optical system controller adapted to determine and control a resist film exposure time responsive to the temperature data received from the resist coating and developing apparatus, wherein the temperature data as initially calculated are replaced with practically measured temperature data when the baking processes are performed to adjust the exposure time.


Claim 5 is therefore amended to recite limitations derived from allowed claim 1. Thus, at least for the reasons discussed in the previous response to official action, claim 1 is patentable. Further, claims 5-8, which depend therefrom, are allowable for their dependency and their own merits.

Similarly, claim 9 is amended to recite limitations similar to claim 5. Thus, claim 9 is allowable and claims 10-11, which depend therefrom, are allowable for their dependency and their own merits.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-11 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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